History 01:512:242 World War II Spring 2025

Course Syllabus
Version 2 (20 January 2025)
You can always find the most recent version of the syllabus on the course Canvas site:
https://canvas.rutgers.edu

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 2:00 – 3:20pm Murray Hall 212 (College Avenue)

Instructor:
Richard Grippaldi, Ph.D.
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Office: Van Dyck 208 (College Ave)
Hours: Mon Tues & Thur 12:15 – 1:15pm
and by appointment

Teaching Assistant:
Lauren Rorie
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Office: to be determined
Hours: by appointment

Course Description: This is a study of the causes, course, and aftermath of World War II, with particular emphasis on the place of American culture and foreign policy within world politics.

In addition to discussing American grand strategy and the course of the war in both Europe and the Pacific, the class will consider such topics as the United States' mobilization for war; roles of women and minority groups in the war effort; the use of submarine and strategic air warfare; and the use of nuclear weapons against Japan.

Special Permission Numbers: The enrollment cap for this course is set at the number of desks in the classroom. If it is closed, there literally is nowhere for you to sit. DO NOT ASK FOR A SPECIAL PERMISSION NUMBER.

Required Course Texts: Print versions can be purchased from the campus bookstore, or special-ordered from your local bookstore or Internet bookseller. Electronic versions are acceptable, but know that reading assignments will refer to pages in the print versions.

Overy, Richard. *Blood and Ruins: The Last Imperial War, 1931 – 1945*. New York: Penguin Books, 2021. ISBN 9780143132936

Sledge, E. B. *With the Old Breed, at Peleliu and Okinawa*. New York: Random House, 2007. ISBN 9780891419198

Walker, J. Samuel. *Prompt and Utter Destruction: Truman and the Use of Atomic Bombs against Japan*, 3rd ed. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2016. ISBN 9781469628974

To students who would like more detail on certain battles, campaigns, units &c &c, Dr. Grippaldi recommends Williamson Murray & Allan R. Millett, *A War to Be Won: Fighting the Second World War* (Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press,

2000), which he used in this course for many years. It is available electronically through Rutgers University Libraries: https://ebookcentral-proquest-com.proxy.libraries.rutgers.edu/lib/rutgers-ebooks/detail.action?docID=3300332

Students will also read articles made available via Rutgers University Libraries. These will require you to use your Rutgers NetID credentials. Finally, students will use materials posted to the course Canvas site.

General Expectations: Dr. Grippaldi and Ms. Rorie expect you will
• treat them, your classmates, and your work with respect
• silence your cell phone or smartphone before class begins
• first consult the syllabus when you have questions about the course
• follow directions precisely
• ask questions when you require clarification of directions, or when you are uncertain or curious about any aspect of the course, or the material presented

Coronavirus Classroom Policy Statement: per the University's "COVID-19 Information" web site (https://www.rutgers.edu/covid19) , "Face coverings are not required at the university but are welcomed."

Those wearing masks should make sure they conform to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines and should completely cover the nose and mouth. You can find those guidelines on the CDC website:
https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/publicppe/use.html

Email and Office Hours: After Dr. Grippaldi submits a final grade for you, he will not allow you to raise it via additional assignments or alternative assessments of course knowledge. You may ask him about your course standing at any time during the semester. If you are dissatisfied with the grades you have earned, it is upon you to contact him for advice or help towards improving.

Email is the best way to contact Dr. Grippaldi or Ms. Rorie. Their email addresses are rgrippal@rutgers.edu and lr813@history.rutgers.edu, respectively. When you write, please use your Rutgers email account. All University business involving students is bound by the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, which limits disclosure of student information to the students themselves, and authorized employees of the University. Because anyone can create a non-Rutgers email account that impersonates an instructor or student, these accounts are not secure ways of transmitting information covered by FERPA. Dr. Grippaldi and Ms. Rorie will always use their Rutgers email account to communicate with you, and you should do the same.

Dr. Grippaldi is teaching multiple courses this semester. Please include "History 512:242" in the subject line of your email, which will help him place you in the right course. Email sent without a subject line, even by a Rutgers email account, will be ignored.

As a general rule, Dr. Grippaldi will check his email:

- Once in the mid-morning (between 8:00 and 10:00am)
- Once in the late afternoon (between 3:00 and 5:00pm)
- Mondays through Thursdays, once in the early evening (between 6:00 and 8:00pm)

It's also likely that he will check email while holding his office hour (see below).

In any event, you should feel free to email Dr. Grippaldi as your schedule permits. He will always acknowledge receipt of emails sent from a Rutgers account with a subject line. If you do not receive a reply within 24 hours, assume your email did not reach Dr. Grippaldi, and write him again.

Office hours, traditionally, are periods when a college instructor is available ("in the office") to discuss course matters, broadly defined, with students. Dr. Grippaldi will physically be in his office on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays, between 12:15 and 1:15pm. You can simply drop-in at these times, although you may find Dr. Grippaldi already meeting with a classmate. If you would like to discuss course matters but are not free at those times, you may make an appointment to meet at a time more convenient for you.

Dr. Grippaldi enjoys interacting with students – really! – so if you have a simple course-related question or curiosity that does not warrant privacy, he also encourages you to talk to him before or after class.

If you wish to discuss matters with Ms. Rorie, please make an appointment.

Grading: Course grades will be assigned according to the following averages, subject to the qualification laid out in "Attendance" (below):

A: 90.00 or more	B+: 85.00 – 89.99	C+: 75.00 – 79.99	D: 60.00 – 69.99
	B: 80.00 – 84.99	C: 70.00 – 74.99	F: less than 60.00

Attendance: The History Department is administered by the School of Arts and Sciences. The SAS Office of Advising and Academic Services notes ("Attendance and Cancellation of Classes," https://sasundergrad.rutgers.edu/degree-requirements/policies/details/258-rutgers-university-guidelines/1192-attendance) that "At Rutgers University, attendance is expected at all regularly scheduled meetings of a course." Dr. Grippaldi's memory will not reliably inform him, at course's end, which meetings each student attended. Instead, he will circulate an attendance sheet at the beginning of each meeting. It is your responsibility to sign it.

SAS-AAS also notes, "[I]ndividual courses may set policies for maximum absences." Students are permitted six unexcused absences. As students accumulate more than six unexcused absences, the effect on their course grade becomes increasingly severe:

- Students with seven unexcused absences will earn a letter grade no higher than C, regardless of their average on course assignments.
- Students with eight unexcused absences will earn a letter grade no higher than D.
- Students with nine or more unexcused absences will fail the course.

That said, there will be times you are unavoidably prevented from attending class. Dr. Grippaldi will accept your word that your absence was unavoidable and excuse you. You may use Rutgers' Self-Reporting Absence Application, as the system will notify him when you do:

https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/

As far as this course is concerned, you have sick days! Please stay home at the slightest indication you are unwell. Again, Dr. Grippaldi will accept your word that you missed class due to illness and excuse you.

Participation: strictly speaking, participation is not required in class. That said, Dr. Grippaldi encourages you to engage with the material, and interact with him and your classmates. To that end, each week, you may earn up to 0.1 percent of extra credit. The total amount, up to 1.5 percent, will be added to your final average on course assignments before Dr. Grippaldi determines your letter grade for the course.

You can earn participation credits by asking questions or commenting during lectures, talking with Dr. Grippaldi before or after class, visiting his office, or corresponding with Dr. Grippaldi via email regarding course requirements or content. The amount of credit awarded is entirely at his judgment.

Warning Notices: The current Course Catalog (https://catalogs.rutgers.edu/generated/nb-ug_current/pg1460.html) directs instructors to "report to the Rutgers-New Brunswick registrar the name of each student making unsatisfactory progress in a course ... Warning notices are then sent to students." This is normally done in the semester's seventh week. Dr. Grippaldi will file an academic warning on any student whose course average is below 70 percent. He will file an attendance warning on any student who has accumulated four or more unexcused absences.

Assignments: Students will complete the following:

• a syllabus quiz, worth 5 percent of the course grade
• two short (3 – 5 page) papers (12.5 percent each, 25 percent total)
• a course project with a written (4 – 6 pages, 20 percent) and group (5 percent) component
• an in-class ("blue book") midterm examination (20 percent)

• a final examination held during the standard final exam period (25 percent)

As students submit work, Dr. Grippaldi will enter the grades into the "Grades" function on Canvas as acknowledgement that he has evaluated the work. Your average as calculated by the "Grades" function is *unofficial,* however. You may ask Dr. Grippaldi for your precise standing at any time.

Syllabus Quiz: This is a ten-question quiz. Each question is worth 10 points. You are permitted to consult your syllabus while taking the quiz. On Tuesday, January 21, Dr. Grippaldi will post the quiz for you to download and complete. Submit your quiz as you would a unit examination. You may turn it in at any point before, or at the beginning of, class on Thursday, **February 6**.

Short Papers: In each short paper, you will answer the posed question using evidence from readings, discussion, and lecture. These assignments will demonstrate your ability to construct and evaluate historical arguments.

Short Paper #1 due **February 13**. Length: 3 – 5 pages. Which American person or institution should bear the primary responsibility for the ineffective defense of the Hawaiian Islands in December 1941? (NB: there are legitimate critiques of Franklin Roosevelt, but the vast sea of "Pearl Harbor conspiracy" literature produced over the past eighty years has failed to convince Dr. Grippaldi of its correctness.)

Short Paper #2 due **April 10**. Length: 3 – 5 pages. Was the fall 1944 invasion of the Palau Islands justified?

Course Project: The use of nuclear weapons against Japan remains one of the most controversial aspects of American participation in World War II. The course project is designed to educate you on the options American defense officials considered to compel the Japanese to surrender.

The course project has two parts. Each student will write a four-to-six-page paper on one of five options (invasion, blockade, conventional bombing, negotiated surrender, or atomic bombing). The paper, worth 20 percent of the course grade, is due April 24.

On **April 24**, the class will be broken into groups. Each student will brief other members of the group on their option. The group will then recommend one of the presented options and provide a short explanation of their reasoning. The group portion of the course project is worth 5 percent of the course grade.

The course project is explained in greater detail in the "Course Project Instructions" handout, on the course Canvas site.

Evaluating Your Written Assignments: Both Dr. Grippaldi and Ms. Rorie will evaluate your written work. Each short paper, as well as the course project paper, will be evaluated in six separate categories: Mechanics (10 points), Thesis (25 points), Argument &

Organization (20 points), Evidence (20 points), Citations (10 points), and Proofreading (15 points). For more details on expectations and tips on writing, see the "Writing a History Paper" handout posted on the course Canvas site.

Except by prior arrangement, students must turn in a printout of any paper.

Artificial Intelligence: Rutgers' Office of Teaching Evaluation and Assessment Research (https://otear.rutgers.edu/teaching/ai-advice) notes that most of what we call "artificial intelligence" ("machine learning," "chatbots," &c &c) is more precisely defined as a large language model, or LLMs. Quoting OTEAR, LLMs

> predict probable word sequences in response to a prompt even though they do not "understand" language in any human-like sense. … However, machine-generated content is often factually incorrect. Moreover, when users prompt an LLM to provide sources for information, the cited sources may be wrong or completely fabricated.

Any use of artificial intelligence may commit what the University's Academic Integrity Policy (Policy 10.2.13) defines as cheating ("Submitting as one's own work a term paper or other assignment prepared, in whole or in part, by someone else") or fabrication ("the invention of sources, citations, data, or results, and recording or reporting them in any academic exercise"). Each assignment you will be asked to complete can be answered fully using your texts and lecture notes. DO NOT USE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE to prepare assignments for submission.

Writing Drafts: As noted in the "Writing a History Paper" handout, Dr. Grippaldi is willing to evaluate your written work before you must submit it for a grade. Minor questions about technical issues, theses, and outlines may be emailed to him as you wish. Draft short papers may be submitted as late as three days before the assignment is due. (You presumably would then turn the paper in on the "grace period" date; see the following section.)

Dr. Grippaldi believes his highest priorities are preparing each lecture for delivery, and then evaluating work students have submitted for a grade. He will acknowledge receipt of draft work, but will not evaluate it until he is current in his other responsibilities.

The "Grace Period": Sometimes, we all could use an extra day or two to do our best work. At any time, you may submit a paper one class meeting late without penalty. Beyond this, you will not be permitted to submit late work unless you meet with Dr. Grippaldi to discuss why the work has not been completed, and negotiate a plan for its completion.

Evaluating work submitted under the "grace period" policy is a higher priority for Dr. Grippaldi than evaluating drafts of future assignments, but will not occur while weekly lectures need completion or work submitted on-time needs evaluation.

Examinations: The examinations are similar in format. Both will cover readings, lectures, and discussion material. On the midterm, you will answer five identifications and two essays; on the final, ten identifications and two essays. (This is why the midterm is worth 20 percent towards the course average, but the final exam is worth 25 percent.) Dr. Grippaldi will provide an identification term study guide at least two classes before each exam.

The midterm will be held in class, on **March 6** The final exam will be held on **Tuesday, May 13**, between **noon and 3:00pm**, at a place to be determined. You will not be allowed to make up missed examinations unless a) your absence would otherwise be excused (see "Attendance," above) OR b) you arrange with Dr. Grippaldi for a make-up examination in advance of their absence.

As with your papers, both Dr. Grippaldi and Ms. Rorie will evaluate your exams.

Remote Instruction Statement: Should Dr. Grippaldi have to cancel class due to illness, or because he is unable to travel safely to New Brunswick to deliver an in-person lecture, he will notify students by posting an announcement on the Course canvas site. To be sure you receive timely notifications of such an announcement, you can set your notifications preferences to "Notify immediately" and specify an email account or other device to receive it:

Notifications: https://community.canvaslms.com/t5/Student-Guide/How-do-I-manage-my-Canvas-notification-settings-as-a-student/ta-p/434
Canvas contact methods: https://community.canvaslms.com/t5/Student-Guide/How-do-I-add-contact-methods-to-receive-Canvas-notifications-as/ta-p/516

If class is cancelled for any reason, Dr. Grippaldi will upload audio lectures for the day to the course Canvas site, along with a lecture outline and list of key terms. You would be expected to listen to the lectures before the next in-person meeting.

Should the University mandate the course be completed remotely, it will become *asynchronous*. This means you will not be required to participate in course activities on specific days or at specific times. Although assignments will continue to have specific due dates, you will be able to access the course materials at times of your choosing, and turn in assignments before or on the date due. Dr. Grippaldi will post a revised syllabus and course schedule to Canvas as soon as possible.

Academic Integrity Statement: Academic integrity is essential to the success of the educational enterprise. Breaches of academic integrity, including but not limited to cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, denying others access to information or material, and facilitating others' violations of academic integrity, constitute serious offenses against the academic community. Dr. Grippaldi assumes students will familiarize themselves with both Rutgers University's policies on academic integrity, which you can find at http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu , and the resources for students the University has

provided at http://nbacademicintegrity.rutgers.edu/home-2/for-students/ at their earliest opportunity.

Disability Services Statement: Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student must contact the disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation (see https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines). If the documentation supports your request, your campus' disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. As early as possible, please share this letter with your instructors, and discuss the accommodations with them. To begin this process, please complete the registration form on the Office of Disability Services website, at https://webapps.rutgers.edu/student-ods/forms/registration .

Course Schedule
Note that Dr. Grippaldi reserves the right to change the schedule, readings, and assignments.

I. Course Introduction and Concepts January 21
Readings: Overy, preface

Recommended: Murray & Millett, preface

II. American Military and Foreign Policy, 1919 – 1939 January 23, 28 & 30
Readings: Overy, prologue, ch. 1 (pp. 32-60, 68-81)

Brooke L. Blower, "From Isolationism to Neutrality: A New Framework For Understanding American Political Culture, 1919 – 1941," *Diplomatic History* 38 (April 2014): 345–76 (link in Canvas module)

Recommended: Murray & Millett, chs. 1 – 2 (all), 7 (pp. 143-64), appendices 1 – 3

III. Coming of War, 1939 – 1941 February 4, 6 & 11
Readings: Overy, chs. 1 (pp. 61-68, 81-121), 2 (pp. 124-75), 5 (pp. 440-47)

Recommended: Murray & Millett, chs. 3 – 6 (all), 7 (pp. 164-8), 8 (pp. 169-81)

Syllabus Quiz due **February 6**

IV. Military & Economic Mobilization February 13 & 18
Readings: Overy, chs. 4 (pp. 376-90). 5 (pp. 447-50), 6 (pp. 527-66)

Mark Harrison, "Resource Mobilization for World War II: The U.S.A., U.K., U.S.S.R., and Germany, 1938 – 1945," *Economic History Review* 41 (May 1988): 171-92 (link in Canvas module)

Paul A.C. Koistenen, "Mobilizing the World War II Economy: Labor and the Industrial-Military Alliance," *Pacific Historical Review* 42 (November 1973): 443-78 (link in Canvas module).

Recommended: Murray & Millett, ch. 19

Short Paper #1 due **February 13**

V. 1942 February 20 & 25
(Wake and the Philippines, Arcadia Conference, Coral Sea & Midway, Guadalcanal, Northwest Africa)
Readings: Overy, chs. 2 (pp. 176-84), 3 (pp. 236-70), 5 (pp. 467-68), 7 (pp. 605-10)

Recommended: Murray & Millett, chs. 8 (pp. 181-95), 9 (pp. 196-201, 210-15), 11 (pp. 262-302)

VI. Strategic Use of Bombers and Submarines February 27 & March 4
Readings: Overy, chs. 3 (pp. 299-300), 5 (pp. 45-67, 478-509), 6 (pp. 566-93), 10 (pp. 790-92)

Recommended: Murray & Millett, chs. 9 (pp. 223-27), 10 (all), 12 (all), 13 (pp. 348-53)

MIDTERM EXAMINATION **March 6**

VII. 1943 March 11 & 13
(Strategic Conferences, Solomon Islands, New Guinea, Sicily, Italy [August 1943 to end of war], Tarawa)
Readings: Overy, chs. 3 (pp. 270-79, 300-02), 5 (pp. 469-71)

Recommended: Murray & Millett, chs. 9 (pp. 201-9, 215-23, 227-33), 11 (pp. 302-3), 13 (pp. 336-46), 14 (pp. 374-95)

NO CLASS March 18 & 20 (Spring Recess)

VIII. Maintaining the War Effort — March 25 & April 1
Readings: Overy, chs. 2 (pp. 184-217), 4 (pp. 390-435), 5 (pp. 520-23), 7 (pp. 610-22, 632-60), 8 (pp. 664-715), 9 (all), 10 (pp. 766-89, 804-16)

NO CLASS — March 27 (Professor's Commitment)

IX. 1944 — April 3, 8 & 10
(Marshall Islands, Mariana Islands, Normandy, Race to the German Border, Peleliu, Leyte)
Readings: Overy, chs. 3 (pp. 291-98, 303-35), 4 (pp. 474-78), 5 (pp. 510-20)

Sledge, Part I

Recommended: Murray & Millett, chs. 13 (pp. 346-8, 353-73), 14 (pp. 395-410), 15 (all)

Short Paper #2 due **April 10**

X. 1945 — April 15, 17 & 22
(Luzon, Battle of the Bulge, Yalta, Iwo Jima, the German Collapse, Okinawa, strategic bombing of Japan)
Readings: Overy, chs. 2 (pp. 217-33), 3 (pp. 335-73), 7 (pp. 596-605, 622-632), 8 (pp. 715-23), 10 (pp. 792-804)

Sledge, Part II

Recommended: Murray & Millett, chs. 16 – 17 (all), 18 (pp. 509-16)

XI. Course Project: Ending the Pacific War — April 24
Readings: Walker (all)

Recommended: Murray & Millett, ch. 18 (pp. 516-26)

Written component of Course Project due **April 24**

XII. War's Aftermath — April 29
Readings: Overy, chs. 10 (pp. 816-25), 11 (all)

Recommended: Murray & Millett, ch. 20 (all) and epilogue

XIII. Course Conclusion — May 1
No readings

FINAL EXAMINATION — Tuesday, **May 13**
noon – 3:00pm
place to be determined